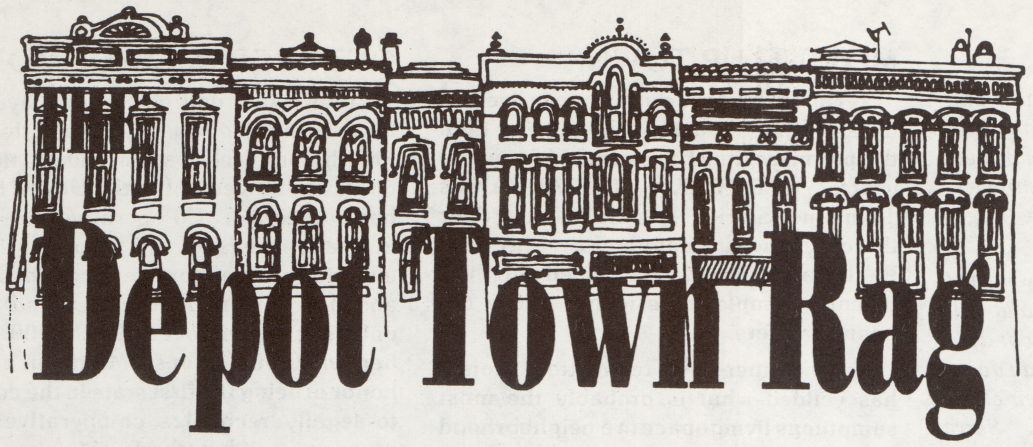


Depot Town Rag

FREE 100% RAG CONTENT

OCTOBER 1984 MEETINGS
Merchants - October 11 - 7:30
Association - October 18 - 7:30
Foundation - October 25 - 8:00
. . . all in the Caboose

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. The Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

CRIME WAVE FLOPS — THUGS NOT TOO SMART

Three break-ins in one night caused our little block to wonder if THE RAG needed a crime reporter. The FILLING STATION was cracked, then CITY BODY got burgled, followed by the busting-in of the front window of OLD TOWN COIN AND GOLD which held what has been described as the most beautiful lettering job on the block. After five minutes of constant alarm-sounding, Kim Mathis heard more glass breaking and then the sound of running feet on the sidewalk. Such commotion convinced her it was time to call Ypsilanti's Finest (483-2311). The new police patrol system paid off — with officers on the scene while the thief was still collecting coins from the sidewalk. He was easily apprehended. The Depot Town neighborhood watch paid off again.

A few nights later, some thugs boosted a basket of beer from Packer's THE (The Health Emporium) MARKET. No one would miss the beer, but they kicked in the antique bevel-glass back door to gain entry and continued to display thier ignorance by coming back for a second load! Same kind of quick police response nabbed these bad boys.

The word is out: Nobody gets away with that kind of behavior in a neighborhood where neighbors look out for each other! Pass it on.

IT'S A GIVE-AWAY!

City Council didn't think Ypsilanti's building owners and businesses paid enough attention to the facade loan program lately, so they've decided to give the money away on a grant basis. The former year-and-a-half-old facade loan program has been restructured so the cash can be given away in grants up to $5,000.00 and can cover half the cost of rehabbing a building facade.

The Federal government gave $150,000.00 in Community Development Block Grants to be used to fund the program and it has not been entirely spent so they want it back by December 31. Nearly $90,000.00 remains.

Community Development Director Sue Remien Fejes says she has six applications under the old loan arrangement and could still handle nine more under the new give away plan. Otherwise, the City will transfer the money to a City-owned rehab program.

Call Sue today, at 483-1100 and ask for your $5,000.00.

NEW TRAFFIC PLAN UNSETTLING

A "center lane" snakes it's way through the Farmers' Market, depositing southbound drivers into the middle of the Aubree's Trangle, feared nearly as much as Bermuda's. Stop signs stand sentry duty next to a train track which has not seen any traffic since the DTA Caboose came in five years ago. It's all part of the New Traffic Pattern suggested by area merchants several months ago and guided by City Traffic Directors, Zirl Yek. The highest priority was to direct main-drag traffic to the least-used parking, then to make Rice and market traffic nothing more than two-way access to additional parking.

The yet-to-be completed plan includes signs pointed to "parking" behind the Market/Caboose area, a one-way alley behind Follet/Aubree's "no parking" between the DELI SHOPPE and GRAND TRUNK, LTD. Even with only the first part of the plan in place, the vast oasis of asphalt which stretches to Forest Avenue has finally become an entrance and exit to parking rather than a drag-strip substitute. Since we proved our adaptability with the bridge closing, perhaps we can live with this change, too, but let's get the rest of the plan in place and try it out for a while before we decide.

TOWNSHIP TIES . . . . .

Ypsilanti Township supervisor, Ron Allen, has suggested that they and the City of Ypsilanti secede from Washtenaw County. Perhaps Allen's suggestion to do ANYTHING with the City is surprising enough, but we find the idea fascinating.

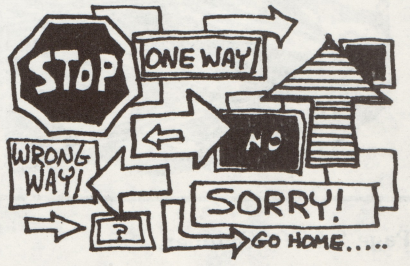
What, we wonder, would this new county be called? With the Township's perchant for declaring "Charter" on all its official printing and painting (as if someone might think they were formed in too casual a fashion), maybe we would be called "The Charter County of Ypsilanti City and Township". But such an ongoing title could only be exhibited on the side of a fifty-five passenger bus.

Some have suggested, since we are immediately south of Superior Township, that the proposed area be called "Inferior County."

Or how about this one: since even the Ann Arbor News recognized our heritage since World War Two, how about our appellation being "Appalachian County?" Or,in the tradition of many American states and cities, "New Appalachia?"

And, just suppose, that the City didn't want to be part of the new county, but the Township went ahead with the plan anyway? Would we be "Ypsilanti Island?" And if Ron's folks seceded from the U.S. of A. too, ...might we be surrounded by a foreign power? Maybe they'll open an embassy in Depot Town.

Check with the Customs and Immigration people on River Street. Whatever we call them, many Township residents call Depot Town "home" too, and we want to preserve that relationship, no matter what county we're in.



Dear RAG:

Why don't you guys let up on Larry and Dennis? I think the contractor and architect did a swell job on the new Cross Street Bridge. Actually, one of the outstanding characteristics of that gorgeous structure is the (large) spaces in the ballustrade.

I am not among those who think my palsied children will loose thier balance and fall down-over-out-through and into the foot-deep Huron River through one of them, and I doubt they could contort themselves to even climb through those holes in the railing. Serve them right if they did fall through. Just don't drip all over the new carpeting when you get home.

On the contrary, I have found those openings to be most helpful. I can lob a half-filled plastic trash bag from the car window without its sticking in the neo-Italianate collonade. Of course, I practiced with one-way, disposable diapers first. This discovery certainly saves time. I often had to spend hours to find someone's dumpster for my trash.

Small, nasty dogs can be quickly side-stepped and hip-checked to within inches of losing their footing and sent whimpering to the other side of the River. One of those nasty street-screamers who embarasses the women on our block was about to unload a stream of invective toward me the other evening, and my sly glance toward the nearest opening quieted him down quickly and easily.

I have also found the spaces to be just the width of the tail gate of my pick-up truck and handy for unloading things I could not get rid of in garage sales.

So, please don't ask the Heritage Foundation to buy back all the old pilasters and stick them in the new openings. Not only would Elmer's Glue not hold them in place, but it would make life much more difficult for me.

Glenda Frobush
your constant reader

MOVING UP TOWN!

Yet another property owner has decided to take care of business by moving onto the premises they have owned for several years. OLD TOWN RESTAURANT's John and Shirley Kornilakis and their three youngest daughters, Christine, Rachel and Naomi, have moved into their recently completed residence above the popular eatery.

The summer-long renovation project has yeilded what is probably the most sumptuous living space in a neighborhood which already boasts several such living accomodations for its owners. The Kornilakis family has added to the existing apartment by opening the walls to the east over their restaurant expansion of a few years ago. Their new digs include two living rooms and spacious bedrooms for all the family. Although a kitchen is included, we suspect they often merely travel downstairs and enjoy the OLD TOWN, much as most of the rest of us in the block.

And while you're counting windows from the street — look to the OLD TOWN's western front. The newest addition to their first floor dining rooms is fast nearing completion. Posh panelling, multi-level dining spaces separated by lathe-turned railings, Victorian-lighted overhead fans, spacious new restrooms and an intimate cocktail bar — all are in readiness — and the final finishing touches will soon be in place. Watch those big front windows for the grand opening of Depot Town's (and perhaps America's) most successful Mom and Pop restaurant.

OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH

From a one day celebration by co-op farmers in Illinois in 1924 to a nationwide month long celebration today, the co-operative movement in the United States has burgeoned. Co-operatives are found in many areas of the economy, from electric and telephone services, insurance and day care to food stores and credit unions, claiming over 60,000,000 members in 40,000 co-ops. Michigan has the honor of being the first state in the country to legally recognize co-operative businesses as valid methods of buying goods and services. Since this auspicious beginning in 1865, co-operatives have, grown, filling thier members' needs. Co-op people are proud of their consumer-owned businesses. They've flourished and helped their communities thrive, providing a sense of community as well as goods and services. October, the harvest month, is a fitting time to celebrate the strengths and benefits of co-operatives in America today. The Ypsilanti Food Co-op, now in its tenth year, is happy to celebrate October as Co-op Month.

bd
B & D RETAIL PLUMBING and HEATING, INC.
Richard C. Laflin
310 N. River · 487-1510
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Hon's
Flowers & Fancies
46 E. CROSS • 482-2124
DEPOT TOWN YPSILANTI

IKE'S
DEPOT TOWN BARBER SHOP
40 E. CROSS
YPSILANTI
483-6300

Hansen's
STANDARD PRINTING
"Historic Depot Town"
Ypsilanti 483-0339

THE LONG, LONG AWNING

Heritage Square (The Lawson Block, next to the Cross Street Bridge) displays a new blue and white awning which rivals the porch on Mackinac Island's Grand Hotel. Their newly unified facade includes signage accenting the entrances to its many interesting shops....HERITAGE REAL ESTATE, THE STORE, THE CANDY SHOP, and GRAND TRUNK, LTD., a veritable labyrinth of interior displays, meandering from the east entrance to another north entrance, two stores away. One can loose themselves in this exciting shop of gifts, crafts and unique items.

STANDARD PRINTING GETTING OLDER

Peek into the front office of our printer and you'll see how they are traveling backward in time, going back to the original style of traditional front-office print shops. The original ceiling height has been replaced and accented with a wide cornice molding. It's authentic, charming and first class. Wainscotting surrounds the office space and the antique work cabinet has been refinished, reglazed and painted in a Victorian style. Work progresses daily in this small space, and the Hansen's invite your interest.

FIRE INSPECTIONS IN DEPOT TOWN

City Fire Inspector, Bob Taylor, paid just about every business on the block a visit this summer and inspections of residential properties will start this fall. In general, Bob was pleased and impressed with what he found in this old district. Fire extinguishers were properly placed and exits were marked and clear. Just about the only worrisome things were those which regular users have become accustomed to and a once-a-year inspector is trained to look for, such as.....

– CHIMNEY MAKERS: Any opening between floors which could conduct an updraft in the event of a fire. The smallest opening around a pipe can create a chimney effect and should be caulked and filled at once.

– HEATING SYSTEMS more than fifteen years old should be checked annually by a licensed contractor and ducts and chimneys should be cleaned periodically. Anyone operating wood stoves should call the chimney sweep annually.

– Some ancient KNOB AND TUBE electrical wiring still exists and should be repaced at once. It's definitely not "historic".

– Any building with living areas above (that's most of us) needs a "TWO HOUR MINIMUM FIRE-RATED CEILING" between store and residence, however each case needs to be inspected to take many different items into consideration to determine what is necessary to meet the minimum. Contact the Fire Inspector for this "free" help.

– Owners with three or more apartments should invite inspection every two years. Even single family units throughout the City are required to have smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.

Inspector Taylor also urges owners and managers to inform all employees and residents of the local emergency phone numbers. In you don't already have them, clip this box and paste it by your phone:

POLICE	483-2311
FIRE	482-3311
EMS	482-3311
HURON VALLEY AMBULANCE	994-4111

We hope to assure our clientele (and Bob Taylor) that Depot Town may be ancient and historic, but it is also up-to-code, and SAFE.

Dear Depot Town:

This has been one of the most challenging, stimulating, and fullfilling years I have experienced.

Never before have I been afforded the opportunity to make things happen and be on the cutting edge as I have been this past year.

I have seen how city politics affect a small geographical area. I have seen how the people of that area can greatly effect city politics. I have watched a phenomenon called Depot Town. EMU Jazz evolve into three major events. I was elated and somewhat surprised when the Depot Town Association and the Central Business Committee worked together and had a great time hosting the first annual "Pair of Aces Casino" in the freight house.

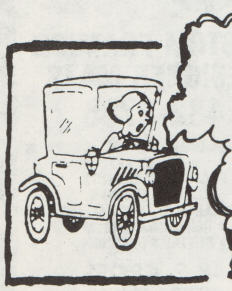
Last but not least of the events during my term this year was Heritage Festival. I throughly enjoyed being a part of what was probably the best one yet. With the end of the Festival though, comes the end of the Depot Town Associations officers terms, and to be honest I can't wait to take off my President's hat and be just another one of those crazy Depot Towners.

I'll be glad to have the time to sit on the bench in front of Ike's and shoot the breeze with all the great people that can be found on the street. The people of Depot Town are truly special to me and this past year I've been so busy I haven't had the time to enjoy them, the atmosphere, the benches or even the flower pots. I can't wait to get back to my baggy blue jeans, rusty plumbing, and cracked plaster.

Before I do slip back into being a regular Depot Towner however, I would like to do one last official act. As President of the Depot Town Association, I would like to thank Sioux Shelton and all the great people of the CBC, Nat Edmunds and the Heritage Festival Committee, Charles, Diane and the office girls at the Chamber, the people at WEMU, Linda, Ken and the rest of Civitan, the staff at City Hall, the Ypsilanti Police Department, Gary Urich and the Farmers Market and most of all the wonderful and crazy people of Depot To wn, you know who you are. I thank all of you for making this a great year.

Sincerely,

Rex Richie



CITY RADIATOR

110 N. River
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

483-2248

Pints
Quarts
Half Gallons
Gallons

Miller's Since 1896 ICE CREAM

Malts
Shakes
Sodas
Cones
Sundaes

42 E. Cross • Ypsilanti, Michigan
485-7546
"Have Ice Cream the old fashioned way."
Sit down to the creamiest
ice cream around served
in a real glass dish.

SIDETRACK
GOOD FOOD GOOD DRINKS GOOD TIMES
Located in historic Depot Town
56 E. CROSS • YPSILANTI
483-1035

D. T. A. 20 September

Secretary Dodd called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. in the Caboose.

Jim Casey, Washtenaw County, presented a slide show about County parks and services and told about the quarter mil levy proposal (renewal for ten years) which is on the November 6th ballot.

Vice President Gary McKeever reconvened the meeting, the minutes were read and corrected and several items of correspondence were read:

- Michigan Historic District Conference in Ypsilanti next week.
- "Orient Express" concept for subsequent steam train trips.
- President Richie's letter (in this issue).

In the absence of the treasurer, Sally Richie reported an overall balance of $5311.24. We have still not received the reimbursement for Frog Island expenses from Civitan.

CABOOSE REPAIR: Randy Carpenter proposed that we apply for permits to repair the roof with half-inch plywood, tarpaper, flashing, then paint the exterior. It was suggested that John Waite be technical advisor. $500.00 was approved, with attention also directed at sills, stair repair and weatherproofing. A work bee will be announced.

VICTORIAN OPEN HOUSE is slated for the first Sunday after Thanksgiving, although only three merchants showed up for the last meeting. Joe Wizauer will chair this event again and looks forward to meeting a committee of interested volunteers.

BY-LAWS proposal was presented by Marybelle Suczek (see copies in Caboose and Millers Ice Cream). Philosophical questions abounded. Suczek, McKeever, Richie, Lohr, Dodd, Rosen-Fine and Fetters will meet on Tuesday, October 9th at 8 P.M. at Suczeks to finalize the proposal.

NBY account (concessions) must be absorbed into the general fund. Carolyn will take care of this.

RAG REPORT: September issue was a week early, came out in the middle of Heritage Festival to promote the Fall Farm Fair.

APPLE HARVEST WEEKEND: October 5,6,7. Alex and Marybelle will hold several strudel-making demonstrations at the Farmers' Market on Saturday. Barbara Lohr and Tom Dodd will staff a booth about Depot Town in the Downtown area.

TIGER TRIP: The charter bus trip to the September 18 Tiger baseball game carried forty three persons and netted $215.00 for the Depot Town Development Authority, thanks to Barb Lohr.

JAZZ: Heritage Competition grossed more than $10,000.00 paying $1000.00 to the Heritage Festival Committee and netted $4000.00 for DTA/WEMU. Committee needs $1800.00 seed for starting up the Winter Series.

BLUEGRASS: Civitan has agreed to pay $1000.00 toDTA for expenses and help at Frog Island event in June, and wants to repeat the event next year.

GREAT TRAIN RACE: Gary Mc Keever reported 210 finishers in the festival race, netting $249.54 for DTA, $165.00 to the Festival Committee. City Police did not show up for the event, but County Sheriff's Department helped to fill the void. Porta-johns were inadequate and will be better next year.

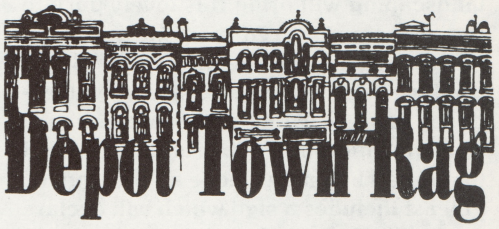
FOUNDATION: Report on Heritage expositions next month.

ELECTION: A unanimous ballot was cast for the following: President: Gary McKeever Vice President: Paul Fetters Secretary: Tom Dodd Treasurer: Eric Ward

MEMBERSHIP chair, Barbara Lohr, reported only seven businesses paid up out of eighty-two members. Three types of membership are available: Owners and Managers (voting) at $25.00, Associates at $10.00, Patrons at $100.00. Businesses are encouraged to push specials for members.

BEST YET AWARDS: – to Jerry Meadows for spearheading the Great Train, Toy, Quilt, etc. at Heritage Festival, – and to retiring president Rex Richie for turning a DTA profit on virtually every promotion during his year in office.

The meeting adjourned at 9.21 P.M.



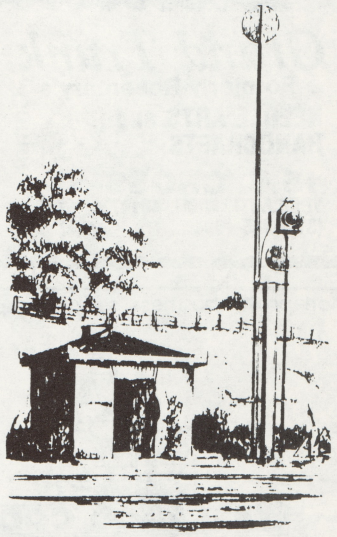
A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc., a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate.

Gary McKeever, president

(DTA: The caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, MI 48197)

Annual dues:

Associate member $10
Regular member $25
Sustaining member $100



Eat in or carry out
Delicious fresh made to order sandwiches
Soup and Salad Bar
THE DELI SHOPPE
Delicatessen and Catering
In Historic Depot Town
17 East Cross St
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197
483-3574
Catering by Bette Beck
Specializing in Wedding Receptions

Stop By! Ypsilanti's Farmers' Market Weds & Sat 7-2
in historic Depot Town
★ Fresh Cider, Farm Eggs, Mich. Apples!
★ Fruits and Vegetables, Nuts!
★ Home Baked Goods - Coffee Shop!
GOOD SELECTION - FAIR PRICES

Aubree's
Depot Town
Ypsilanti, Michigan

FROG ISLAND DEVELOPMENT UNDER WAY

No sooner did the biggest disruptions end at the Cross Street Bridge site than bulldozers began what will be a $300,000.00 rehabilitation of the City's Frog Island Park, commonly known at Depot Town's backyard. Improved running track, a storage shed, amphitheatre and stage, clearer entrances and copious landscaping will bring this lovely park to the attention of even more of the City's residents. Landscape architect, Bruce Rankin, says the new concept will enhance its use, while still maintaining a "natural environment". As we have said to no avail before, we hope all that money at least includes a sign which will declare the park's name to those who have not yet discovered that green jewel of recreational pleasure.

"GOOD OLE BOYS" TAKE OVER

Depot Town's year starts with the September D.T.A. election and then stretches through a winter of Jazz Concerts and Victoriana, followed by a variety of neighborhood promotions, and ends with more projects than any block this size should even try to support at the August Heritage Fest.

This year's election saw the return of the "Good Ole Boys", an all-male slate proposed by the nominating committee and virtually unopposed by anyone in the neighborhood.

Look at their backgrounds:

PRESIDENT GARY McKEEVER: A property owner and resident, Gary runs the computers that run the Saline Ford plant. He runs for sport, too, and his most successful neighborhood project has been the Great Train Race, a road-running event which draws hundreds to the Festival each year. He is married to the lovely Carolyn (Ferraro) McKeever artist, teacher, Jazz entrepreneur and former three-year DTA president, herself.

VICE PRESIDENT PAUL FETTERS: A long-time Association activist and merchant, Paul is part owner of River Art Works and lives above Miller's Ice Cream Parlor. He is a constant volunteer in block projects, gets his hair cut at Ike's and eats at the Old Town. He left the block early last summer for a week at Mackinac Island, but promises not to do so again until his term of office ends.

SECRETARY TOM DODD: Also served as DTA president for three years and simply won't let go of his job as editor of The DEPOT TOWN RAG. Since he has been interpreting the Association news as he sees it for nine years, voters must have decided to let him take the notes and write the letters, as well. A teacher and painter, he too, lives upstairs and is a past city council-member and father of our current Fifth Ward politico.

TREASURER ERIC WARD: Won't get far with all the money, since he too lives right on the block — in the historic Follett House. One of those big glass door-walls overlooking the Farmers' Market is his place, where this recent UM architecture graduate maintains a studio-loft-apartment and a tenuous arrangement with his landlords.

One message from this introduction of our new executive group should be clear: They are intensely local and hard to avoid. They're going to be out there on the sidewalk buttonholing everyone in Depot Town soon, so, if you're not on this railroad's time schedule, you'd better get off the tracks! They look forward to the most extensive action calendar the neighborhood has ever drawn for the next year.

If you are not already on board, easily affordable tickets are available from these four conductors.

Jim MacDonald's Antiques
Apple Annie's Vintage Clothing
29 East Cross • 481-0555
Tuesday-Saturday 12-6 Sunday 12-4

Grand Trunk Ltd.
Formerly Rosemary's
NEEDLE ARTS and HANDCRAFTS
15 E. CROSS
YPSILANTI, MICH. 48197
(313) 485-4994
Corner

Ted's AUTO ELECTRIC
307 N. River St. Ypsilanti, Michigan
Phone 483-1238

a non-profit business serving depot town
YPSI FOOD COOP
312 N. RIVER 483-1520
open: Monday-Friday 10-7, Saturday 9-6

482-0489
23 E. Cross
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Now and Then
ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES
Buy — Sell — Trade
IN HISTORIC DEPOT TOWN

DEPOT EXCHANGE
ANTIQUES
54 E Cross St. (near tracks)
Depot Town
Ypsilanti, Mich 48197
WE BUY, SELL & TRADE
482-1780
Furniture Stripping
Mention RAG ad & get 10% Discount

THE HEALTH EMPORIUM
"To your good health"
FOR YOUR NUTRITIONAL NEEDS
19 E. CROSS 485-2711
DEPOT TOWN YPSILANTI

and everything nice
RECYCLED CHILDREN'S CLOTHING
HANDCRAFTED TOYS & GIFTS
27 EAST CROSS

Vintage Passion
Specializing in Unusual & Different
COSTUME JEWELRY
Featuring fabulous rhinestones
Vintage Clothing
"You've got to see it to believe it!"
32 East Cross
Historic Depot Town

Old Town RESTAURANT

Home Cooked Breakfast • Lunch & Dinner

HISTORIC DEPOT DOWN

super breakfasts - quality antiques - rare collectables - picture framing - fine cabinetry and woodworking - ice cream treats - art gallery - hair salon - barber-shop - two television repair shops - ambulance service - two auto body shops - full service printer - vintage clothing for men and women - health foods - stained glass - wooden toys - finger puppets - kids clothes - three fine luncheon menus - life insurance - collectable stamps and coins - fresh vegetables - glass figures - exotic teas and coffee - goats milk - organic bread - vitamins - home baked goods - natural cosmetics - natural peanut butter - radiators - plumbing supplies - whiteware - figurines - mirrors - mirror boxes - tiffany style stained glass - the best coffee in town - pie ala mode' - pizza by the piece - take out beer - arts and crafts classes for adults and children - private postal boxes - fine used cars - rental autos - antique convertible - specialty purpose lighting contractor - auto electric service and su... service - hair shampoo - fros... - craft shop - bakery - renta... restoration - frame and graphic restoration - fine q... prints - numbered and unnumbered prints - fresh ground peanut butter - theatrical set design - wholesale fruits and vege... - commuter train to det... - 19th century caboose - fun for ... - rare ... - treat ... - ... service printer - v... clothing for men and women - health foods - stained glass - wooden toys - finger puppets - kids clothes - three fine luncheon menus - life insurance - colle... figures - exotic teas and coffee - goats milk - organic bread - vitamins - home baked goods - natural cosmetics - natural peanut butter - radiators - plumbing supplies -

shop in depot town

YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN

RIVER ARTWORKS

CUSTOM FRAMING
DESIGNER MATS
482-8785

- PROFESSIONALS WITH ALL GRAPHICS NEEDLECRAFT FRAMING OF OBJECTS ARCHIVAL FRAMING
- GALLERY OF ORIGINAL ART
- RENTAL DARKROOM
- RENTAL WORKROOM

48 E. CROSS
DEPOT TOWN